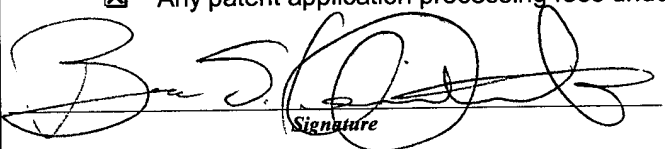



<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)</b>				Docket No. <b>P-4579</b>	
Applicant(s): <b>D.M. Berger et al.</b>					
Serial No. <b>09/395,677</b>		Filing Date <b>September 10, 1999</b>		Examiner <b>B. Forman</b>	
				Group Art Unit <b>1655</b>	
Invention: <b>METHOD FOR PROVIDING LONG-TERM STABILITY TO CELLS FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING</b>					
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>RECEIVED</b>  <b>FEB 20 2002</b>  <b>TECH CENTER 1600/2900</b> </div>	
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	19 -	20 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	1 -	3 =	0 x	\$84.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <b>02-1666</b> A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.					
 Signature			Dated: <b>January 31, 2002</b>		
<b>Bruce S. Weintraub</b> <b>Attorney for Applicants</b> <b>Reg. No. 34,277</b> <b>Becton, Dickinson and Company</b> <b>1 Becton Drive</b> <b>Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417</b> <b>201-847-7096</b>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">         I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on <u>1-31-02</u> with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.             Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence   <b>Donna M. Baumann</b>          Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence       </div>		
CC:					

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: DOLORES M. BERGER ET AL.

SERIAL NO.: 09/395,677 GROUP: 1655

FILING DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 1999 EXAMINER: B. FORMAN

FOR: METHOD FOR PROVIDING LONG-TERM  
STABILITY TO CELLS FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of August 20, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claim 13 as follows.

1. (3x Amended) A method for stabilizing the nucleic acids of at least one cell in a sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) adding to a vessel containing the sample, a composition comprising:
- (i) a first substance having a concentration effective for precipitating or denaturing proteins, comprising at least one

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ON January 31, 2002  
(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Donna M. Baumann

NAME OF APPLICANT, ASSIGNEE OR  
REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE

Donna M. Baumann  
(SIGNATURE)

January 31, 2002  
(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Di